

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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SUBJECT: COMMON TARIFF FOR EURONET

REF: (A) 77 EC A-305, (B) 77 EC A-353

SUMMARY: ANTICIPATING THE OPERATIONAL BEGINNING OF EURONET
IN JANUARY 1979, THE EC COMMISSION AND THE NINE PTT'S OF
THE MEMBER STATES HAVE AGREED ON A COMMON TARIFF FOR THE
TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK. THIS COMMON TARIFF IS BASED
ON DATA VOLUME TRANSMITTED RATHER THAN SUBSCRIPTION AND IS
INDEPENDENT OF DISTANCE. THIS TYPE OF TARIFF STRUCTURE
WILL BENEFIT SMALL AND MEDIUM SCALE USERS OF THE MEMBER
STATES. EURONET IS NOT LIKELY TO REMAIN LIMITED TO USERS
FROM THE MEMBER STATES OR TO SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL
INFORMATION. FOR EXAMPLE, SWITZERLAND HAS MADE A FORMAL
APPLICATION TO JOIN EURONET. END SUMMARY.

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1. TARIFF STRUCTURE:

A. VOLUME CHARGE: FOR THE PURPOSE OF CHARGING, DATA
VOLUME TRANSMITTED WILL BE MEASURED IN SEGMENTS OF 64
BYTES (UNIT OF 8 BITS). THE CHARGE PER 1000 SEGMENTS IS
67.91 BELGIAN FRANCS (\$1 EQUALS ABOUT 32 BELGIAN FRANCS)
WHICH IS EQUIVALENT TO 132.6 BELGIAN FRANCS PER 1000 BITS.

B. TIME CHARGE: THE TIME CHARGE WILL BE DEPENDENT ON THE DATA TRANSMISSION SPEED USED. USING LEASED LINES:

-- UP TO 1200 BITS PER SECOND EQUALS 1.02 BELGIAN FRANCS/ MINUTE;

-- UP TO 9600 BITS PER SECOND EQUALS 1.36 BELGIAN FRANCS/ MINUTE;

-- UP TO 48000 BITS PER SECOND EQUALS 3.62 BELGIAN FRANCS/ MINUTE.

USING PUBLIC TELEPHONE:

-- UP TO 1200 BITS PER SECOND EQUALS 1.36 BELGIAN FRANCS/ MINUTE.

C. SPECIAL FEATURES: AN OFF PEAK (NIGHT, WEEKEND) REDUCTION OF 20 PERCENT WILL BE APPLIED TO THE TIME CHARGE AND A REDUCTION OF 33 1/3 TO THE VOLUME CHARGE. LEASED LINE ACCESS WILL BE CHARGED AT A FLAT RATE EQUIVALENT TO 120 HOURS PER MONTH, INSTEAD OF THE NORMAL TIME CHARGE PLUS THE VOLUME CHARGE INDICATED.

D. NATIONAL ACCESS CHARGE: DETAILS ON NATIONAL ACCESS CHARGES WILL BE ANNOUNCED INDIVIDUALLY BY THE PTT'S OF THE UNCLASSIFIED

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MEMBER STATES.

2. EURONET IS VERY LIKELY TO BE EXTENDED TO THIRD COUNTRIES. SWITZERLAND HAS ALREADY MADE A FORMAL APPLICATION TO JOIN. SWEDEN IS CONTEMPLATING A SIMILAR MOVE. A COMMISSION SOURCE TOLD MISSION OFFICER THAT BOTH SWITZERLAND AND SWEDEN WOULD BE LINKED TO EURONET BY THE TIME IT WILL BE OPERATIONAL IN JANUARY 1979.

3. A SOURCE FROM THE EUROPEAN CONFERENCE OF THE POST AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS ADMINISTRATIONS (CEPT), WHICH LINKS THE NATIONAL PTT'S OF 26 COUNTRIES, EXPECTS EURONET TO FORM THE BASIS OF A WIDER, EUROPEAN PUBLIC PACKET-SWITCHED DATA TRANSMISSION NETWORK FOR SPECIALIZED AND GENERAL DATA TRAFFIC. MOST OF THE EUROPEAN PTT'S HAVE PLANS TO ESTABLISH NATIONAL PUBLIC DATA NETWORKS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES.

4. EURONET AND U.S. INTERESTS: TWO SOURCES FROM THE U.S. TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY HAVE INDICATED THAT THE APPROVED EURONET TARIFF STRUCTURE IS MORE REASONABLE THAN THEY HAD EXPECTED AND IS COMPARABLE TO PRICES CHARGED IN

THE U.S. FOR SIMILAR SERVICES. THEY RECALLED THE PAST PREFERENCES OF THE EUROPEAN PTT'S FOR HIGH TARIFFS. THE TWO OFFICIALS ALSO BELIEVE THAT, WHEN THE SYSTEM BECOMES OPERATIONAL, THERE WILL BE A GROWING INTEREST ON THE PART OF U.S. USERS IN HAVING ACCESS TO EURONET. THIS WILL LEAD TO A LINK BETWEEN THE U.S. PUBLIC PACKET NETWORKS (TELENET, TYMNET) AND EURONET VIA THE INTERNATIONAL RECORD CARRIERS. BOTH SOURCES STRESSED THAT U.S. LINKS TO EURONET WILL PRODUCE SIGNIFICANT MUTUAL BENEFITS. HINTON

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